(c) whether Government propose to start any result-oriented programme in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The prices of tea/coffee, meals and breakfast were increased during last month.

(b) and (c) Railways always strive to improve the quality of food and service. This is an on-going and continuous process. Frequent inspections are conducted and suitable remedial and penal measures taken based on these inspections. A decision has since been taken to induct reputed/professional caterers to manage catering services on the Railways.

**Derailment of Tata-Chandigarh Express Train**

335. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tata-Chandigarh Express Train was derailed by suspected Jharkhand activities in Dhanbad Division of Eastern Railway in December, 1991;

(b) if so, what are the details of the passengers affected and the losses incurred by Railways in the incident;

(c) whether Government have paid any compensation to the affected passengers;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what action Government have taken to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) On 22-12-91, 9 coaches of 8101 UP Tatanagar-Amritsar Express derailed between Dudhinagar and Jharokhas stations on Dhanbad Division of Eastern Railway. The derailment occurred due to removal of fish plates and at rail joints by miscreants.

(b) to (d) There was no casualty in this accident and as such the question of payment of any compensation does not arise. The cost of damage to Railway Property has been estimated at Rs. 55,000/-

(e) The following preventive measures have been initiated to eliminate possibility of such accidents in future:—

(i) Night patrolling by gangmen has since been introduced in this section.

(ii) Local Police Station/Dudhinagar, U.P., is maintaining watch over the section with a view to preventing theft of track fittings.

(iii) Close liaison is being maintained with Police and Civil Authorities to assist in investigation and exchange of crime intelligence.

**Halt of Rajdhani Express at Allahabad**

336. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state what is the number of passengers who get down and board at Allahabad in both Up and Down Rajdhani Express since Rajdhani Express started stopping there, giving details month-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : The daily average number of passengers who travelled to Allahabad from New Delhi and Howrah and from Allahabad to these destinations by 2301/2302 Rajdhani Express trains since its stoppage was priovded at Allahabad is as under :—

| Month | To Allahabad | | From Allahabad | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | from NDLS | from HWH | To NDLS | To HWH |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| March '91 (w.e.f. 16-3-1991) | 6·2 | 4·5 | 3·9 | 8·4 |
| April '91 | 5·3 | 7·2 | 3·1 | 9·1 |
| May '91 | 9·7 | 7·0 | 3·7 | 11·5 |
| June '91 | 12·7 | 7·0 | 6·2 | 15·5 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| July '91 . . . . . | 10·7 | 6·7 | 4·6 | 8·8 |
| August '91 . . . . . | 10·3 | 5·5 | 2·7 | 5·0 |
| Sept. '91 . . . . . | 10·3 | 6·1 | 2·6 | 8·3 |
| Oct. '91 . . . . . | 11·4 | 6·7 | 3·1 | 13·0 |
| Nov. '91 . . . . . | 12·4 | 6·9 | 2·1 | 11·4 |
| Dec. '91 . . . . . | 13·7 | 6·1 | 4·8 | 12·8 |
| Jan. '92 . . . . . | 15·3 | 6·5 | 3·1 | 10·7 |

**पटरी और गेज परिवर्तन**

337. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार वाराणसी, छपरा, मऊ, बलिया, शाहगंज रेल लाइन के दोहरेकरण और आमान परिवर्तन पर विचार कर रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

**रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन)** : (क) जी नहीं

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

(ग) इन खंडों पर यातायात की मात्रा को देखते हुये दोहरीकरण का औचित्य नहीं बनता है । बलिया के रास्ते छपरा–औंड़िहार के आमान परिवर्तन का कार्य चल रहा है । रेलों ने सभी मीटर लाइनों को उत्तरोत्तर बड़ी लाइनों में बदलने तथा एक ही आमान प्रणाली की ओर अग्रसर होने का विनिश्चय किया है । शेष खंडों के आमान परिवर्तन के बारे में अगले चरण में शुरू की जाने वाली परियोजनायें तय करते समय विचार किया जायेगा ।

**Gauge conversion and electrification Projects**

338. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) The details of the new lines, gauge conversion and Electrification projects approved by the Planning Commission during the Seventh Plan period;

(b) The number of those which are under implementation and the progress made in each case so far; and

(c) The details of the projects for laying of new lines, gauge conversion and electrification to be taken up during the Eighth Plan period ?

THE MINISTE R OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) A statement is attached. (*see* below)

(c) Eighth Plan has not been finalised, but tentatively conversion of 6000 kms. and electrification of about 3500 kms. has been programmed. Individual sections would be decided on a year to year basis.